

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

Claim 1. A method of playing a stud poker card game in which a final hand has at least five cards comprising:

- a) the player selecting to play at least two hands;
- b) a player making a wager which is allocated among the hands selected to be played by the player;
- c) dealing and displaying face up a number of partial hands of less than five cards, the number of partial hands corresponding to the number of hands selected to be played by the player, each partial hand having the same cards;
- d) dealing and displaying face up additional cards to each hand to complete each hand so that each final hand has at least five cards;
- e) determining the poker hand ranking of each final hand; and
- f) paying the player a pre-established amount based on the amount of the wager on each hand if the final hand comprises a predetermined poker hand ranking.

Claim 2. The method of Claim 1 in which each partial hand has four cards.

Claim 3. The method of Claim 1 in which each partial hand has three cards.

Claim 4. The method of Claim 1 in which each partial hand has two cards.

Claim 5. The method of Claim 1 in which each partial hand has one card.

Claim 6. The method of Claim 1 in which the additional cards for each final hand are dealt from a depleted deck which consists of the original deck of cards less the cards dealt as the partial hand.

Claim 7. The method of Claim 1 in which all of the additional cards for each final hand are dealt from the same original deck of cards less the cards dealt as the partial hand.

Claim 8. The method of Claim 1 in which the final hand has at least six cards and the predetermined poker hand rankings are based on the best five card poker ranking of the final hand.

Claim 9. The method of Claim 1 in which the final hand has at least six cards and the predetermined poker hand rankings are based on the best six card poker ranking of the final hand.

Claim 10. The method of Claim 1 in which the final hand has at least seven cards and the predetermined poker hand rankings are based on the best five card poker ranking of the final hand.

Claim 11. The method of Claim 1 in which the final hand has at least seven cards and the predetermined poker hand rankings are based on the best six card poker ranking of the final hand.

Claim 12. The method of Claim 1 in which the final hand has at least seven cards and the predetermined poker hand rankings are based on the best seven card poker ranking of the final hand.

Claim 13. The method of Claim 1 in which the player is awarded a bonus payout whenever the player achieves at least two final hands of the same poker hand ranking.

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Claim 14. A method of playing a stud poker card game in which a final hand has a predetermined number of cards comprising:

- a) the player selecting to play at least two hands;
- b) a player making a wager which is allocated among the hands selected to be played by the player;
- c) dealing and displaying face up a number of partial hands of less than the predetermined number of cards, the number of partial hands corresponding to the number of hands selected to be played by the player, each partial hand having the same cards;
- d) dealing and displaying face up additional cards to each hand to complete each hand so that each final hand has the predetermined number of cards;
- e) determining the poker hand ranking of each final hand; and
- f) paying the player a pre-established amount based on the amount of the wager on each hand if the final hand comprises a predetermined poker hand ranking.

Claim 15. The method of Claim 14 in which the predetermined number of cards in the final hand is two.

Claim 16. The method of Claim 14 in which the predetermined number of cards in the final hand is three.

Claim 17. The method of Claim 14 in which the predetermined number of cards in the final hand is four.

Claim 18. The method of Claim 14 in which the additional cards for each final hand are dealt from a depleted deck which consists of the original deck of cards less the cards dealt as the partial hand.

Claim 19. The method of Claim 14 in which all of the additional cards for each final hand are dealt from the same original deck of cards less the cards dealt as the partial hand.

Claim 20. The method of Claim 14 in which the player is awarded a bonus payout whenever the player achieves at least two final hands of the same poker hand ranking.

Claim 21. A method of playing a stud poker card game in which a final hand has a predetermined number of cards comprising:

- a) the player selecting to play at least two hands;
- b) a player making a wager which is allocated among the hands selected to be played by the player;
- c) dealing and displaying face up a number of partial hands of less than the predetermined number of cards, the number of partial hands corresponding to the number of hands selected to be played by the player, each partial hand having the same preselected cards;
- d) dealing and displaying face up additional cards to each hand to complete each hand so that each final hand has the predetermined number of cards;
- e) determining the poker hand ranking of each final hand; and
- f) paying the player a pre-established amount based on the amount of the wager on each hand if the final hand comprises a predetermined poker hand ranking.

Claim 22. The method of Claim 21 in which the preselected cards for the partial hand are from the groups consisting of a Four Card Straight Flush, a Four Card Flush, a Four Card

Straight, a Three-of-a-Kind, a Two Pair and a Pair.

Claim 23. The method of Claim 21 in which the additional cards for each final hand are dealt from a depleted deck which consists of the original deck of cards less the cards dealt as the partial hand.

Claim 24. The method of Claim 21 in which all of the additional cards for each final hand are dealt from the same original deck of cards less the cards dealt as the partial hand.

Claim 25. The method of Claim 21 in which the partial hand having the same preselected cards is selected by the player.

Claim 26. The method of Claim 21 in which the partial hand having the same preselected cards is randomly selected.